


INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002320	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/ES 02/00422	International filing date (day/month/year) 09.09.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 09.09.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B22D7/10		
Applicant IBERIA ASHLAND CHEMICAL, S.A.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand  06.04.2004	Date of completion of this report  02.08.2004	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Noske, W  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8448	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/ES 02/00422

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17):*):

**Description, Pages**

1-11 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-11 as originally filed

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/2, 2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/ES 02/00422

1. D1 ES-A-2 155 001, claims 1, 4, 16, 17 and Fig. 1, discloses an exothermic casting sleeve 2 or 3 which has openings at both ends, both openings having a cylindrical shape. The sleeve 2 or 3 comprises insulating refractory material in the form of hollow microspheres of aluminium silicate, at least one of Al, Mg, Si as an oxidizable metal, a salt of an alkaline or earth alkaline metal as an oxidizing agent, a binding agent for curing and a curing catalyst. The casting sleeve 2 or 3 is probably made from the said mixture of materials by forming, i.e. blowing the mixture in a mould in using one core, curing and demoulding the formed core.
2. The subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 11 departs from the prior art D1 at least in
  - (i) a double chamfer 8 provided at one of the open ends and
  - (ii) a plug 9 being placed at the other (upper) open end of the formed and cured sleeve 1.

Novelty is thus given.

An inventive step is also given since none of the documents cited in the search report discloses or points to the novel features (i), (ii) which avoid use of an intermediate biscuit (5 as shown in Fig. 1C) while providing a notch in the casting deadhead in order to simplify separation thereof from the casting piece.